

- 1 1. A surface for use during supporting and processing an article supported by the  
2 surface, comprising:  
3 means for supporting an article to be processed, the means for  
4 supporting the article to be processed having means for receiving the article to  
5 be processed; and  
6 means for providing an air pocket between the article and the means for  
7 supporting the article, whereby air circulation occurs between the article and the  
8 means for supporting the article.
- 1 2. An improved food processing surface as set forth in claim 1 wherein the means  
2 for supporting the article is a vessel having an upper patterned surface supporting the  
3 article.
- 1 3. An improved food processing surface as set forth in claim 1 wherein the means  
2 for providing an air pocket between the article and the means for supporting the article  
3 is a pattern of raised portions and low portions.
- 1 4. An improved food processing surface as set forth in claim 3 wherein the pattern  
2 of raised portions and low portions is embossed.
- 1 5. An improved food processing surface as set forth in claim 4 wherein the pattern  
2 is embossed in a food equipment grade aluminum alloy.
- 1 6. An improved food processing surface as set forth in claim 3 wherein the pattern  
2 of raised portions and low portions is a pebble-grain pattern.
- 1 7. An improved food processing surface as set forth in claim 3 wherein the raised  
2 portions have a generally flat upper surface that lies in substantially the same plane.

1 8. An improved food processing surface as set forth in claim 3 wherein the ratio of  
2 the raised portions and the low portions is approximately 2:1.

1 9. A vessel for use during processing food products at a temperature other than  
2 ambient temperature, the vessel including a surface for supporting the food products,  
3 the vessel and the supporting surface comprising:

4 a vessel for supporting a food product during processing of the food  
5 product at a temperature, wherein the temperature is not ambient temperature;

6 a surface of the vessel, the surface supporting the food product during  
7 processing; and

8 a pattern located on the surface of the vessel, the pattern providing an  
9 air pocket between the vessel and the food product when the surface supports  
10 the food product, whereby heat transfer between the food product and the  
11 vessel is enhanced during food processing.

1 10. A vessel as set forth in claim 9 wherein the vessel includes a sheet portion of  
2 the surface having the pattern located on the surface.

1 11. A vessel as set forth in claim 9 wherein the vessel includes a generally circular  
2 portion of the surface having the pattern located on the surface.

1 12. A vessel as set forth in claim 9 wherein the vessel includes a generally  
2 rectangular portion of the surface having the pattern located on the surface.

1 13. A vessel as set forth in claim 12 wherein the vessel includes a generally square  
2 portion of the surface having the pattern located on the surface.

1 14. A vessel as set forth in claim 9 wherein the air pockets are defined by a  
2 combination of a raised portion of the patterned surface and a low portion of the  
3 patterned surface.

1 15. A vessel as set forth in claim 14 wherein the ratio of the raised portion and the  
2 low portion is approximately 2:1.

1 16. A vessel as set forth in claim 14 wherein the raised portion has a generally flat  
2 upper surface that lies in substantially a single same plane.

1 17. A vessel as set forth in claim 14 including a plurality of raised portions and low  
2 portions.

1 18. A vessel as set forth in claim 16 wherein the ratio of the raised portions and the  
2 low portions is approximately 2:1.

1 19. A vessel as set forth in claim 9 wherein the vessel is formed from a sheet of  
2 aluminum having a pebble-grain pattern.

1 20. A vessel for processing food products at a temperature other than ambient  
2 temperature, the vessel including a surface for supporting the food products, the  
3 vessel and the supporting surface comprising:

4 a vessel for supporting a food product during processing of the food  
5 product at a temperature, wherein the temperature is not ambient temperature;

6 a surface of the vessel, the surface supporting the food product during  
7 processing; and

8 the surface of the vessel having a pattern, the pattern providing an air  
9 pocket between the vessel and the food product when the surface supports the  
10 food product, whereby heat transfer between the food product and the vessel is

11           enhanced during food processing.

1     21.    A vessel as set forth in claim 20 wherein the air pocket is defined by a  
2     combination of a raised portion of the patterned surface and a low portion of the  
3     patterned surface.

1     22.    A vessel as set forth in claim 21 wherein the ratio of the raised portion and the  
2     low portion is approximately 2:1.

1     23.    A vessel as set forth in claim 21 wherein the raised portion has a generally flat  
2     upper surface that lies in substantially a single same plane.

1     24.    A vessel as set forth in claim 21 including a plurality of raised portions and low  
2     portions.

1     25.    A vessel as set forth in claim 24 wherein the ratio of the raised portions and the  
2     low portions is approximately 2:1.

1     26.    A vessel as set forth in claim 20 wherein the vessel is formed from a sheet of  
2     aluminum having a pebble-grain pattern.

1     27.    A vessel having a surface as set forth in claim 20 wherein the vessel is a  
2     baking pan.

1     28.    A vessel having a surface as set forth in claim 27 wherein the vessel is a  
2     substantially round baking pan.

1     29.    A vessel having a surface as set forth in claim 27 wherein the vessel is a  
2     substantially rectangular baking pan.

1 30. A vessel having a surface as set forth in claim 27 wherein the vessel is a  
2 substantially square baking pan.

1 31. A vessel having a surface as set forth in claim 20 wherein the vessel is a  
2 cooling vessel.

1 32. A vessel having a surface as set forth in claim 31 wherein the vessel is a  
2 substantially round cooling vessel.

1 33. A vessel having a surface as set forth in claim 31 wherein the vessel is a  
2 substantially rectangular cooling vessel.

1 34. A vessel having a surface as set forth in claim 31 wherein the vessel is a  
2 substantially square cooling vessel.

1 35. A vessel having a surface as set forth in claim 20 wherein the vessel is a  
2 freezing vessel.

1 36. A vessel having a surface as set forth in claim 35 wherein the vessel is a  
2 substantially round freezing vessel.

1 37. A vessel having a surface as set forth in claim 35 wherein the vessel is a  
2 substantially rectangular freezing vessel.

1 38. A vessel having a surface as set forth in claim 35 wherein the vessel is a  
2 substantially square freezing vessel.

1 39. A vessel having a surface as set forth in claim 35 wherein the vessel is a  
2 thawing vessel.

1 40. A vessel having a surface as set forth in claim 20 wherein the vessel is a  
2 substantially round thawing vessel.

1 41. A vessel having a surface as set forth in claim 20 wherein the vessel is a  
2 substantially rectangular thawing vessel.

1 42. A vessel having a surface as set forth in claim 20 wherein the vessel is a  
2 substantially square thawing vessel.